

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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DOT-00 /102 W

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R 051933Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4784

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, UR, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET LUNCHEON, GENEVA, JULY 21

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE MAJOR TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE 63RD ECOSOC ON JULY 20. PRESENT ON THE SOVIET SIDE WERE AMBASSADOR NESTERENKO, L.N. ASTOFYEV (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS), AND G.A. SMIROV (SOVIET MISSION TO THE UN). U.S. DELEGATION INCLUDED AMB. YOUNG, AMB. WELLS, AMB. VANDEN HEUVEL, MINISTER KITCHEN AND J.BAKER.

2. UN BUDGET: NESTERENKO OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY EXPRESSING SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT "UNJUSTIFIED" ASSESSED BUDGET INCREASES AND THE CONINUING INEFFICIENCIES OF THE UN SYSTEM. HE HAD THOUGHT THAT THE U.S. SHARED THESE CONCERNS BUT WAS DISTURBED BY RECENT REPORTS THAT IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD SOUGHT SIMPLY TO OBTAIN THE FUNDS REQUESTED WITHOUT QUESTIONING THE PROGRAMS. HE SUGGESTED THAT IF THE U.S. AND THE USSR COULD AGREE ON A COMMON APPROACH, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SIGNIFICANTLY  
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INFLUENCE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA. IN RESPONSE, AMB. YOUNG SAID THAT WHILE WE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE SOVIET CONCERNS, WE WANTED TO BE FLEXIBLE IN OUR APPROACH. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME AREAS SEEMED MORE APPROPRIATE FOR MULTILATERAL RATHER THAN BILATERAL EFFORTS. WE WERE PARTICULARLLY INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING UN PEACE KEEPING OPERATIONS. WHILE AGREEING THAT SOME

UN MEETINGS (BOTH REGULAR BODIES AND SPECIAL SESSIONS) SEEMED SUPERFLUOUS, HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED IN THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT TO GENEVA BY THE SIGNIFICANT WORK BEING DONE IN MANY OF THE UN AGENCIES. AMB. YOUNG CAUTIONED AGAINST AN OVEREMPHASIS ON COORDINATION/EFFICIENCY OR TRYING TO IMPOSE ON THE SYSTEM OUR CONCEPTS OF DEVELOPMENT. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO "ZERO BASE" BUDGETING WHICH, AMB. YOUNG POINTED OUT, DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN ZERO GROWTH.

3. ECE CONGRESSES: NESTERENKO ASKED WHY THE USG OPPOSED THE SOVIET PROPOSALS IN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE FOR EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE OBJECTIVE WAS NOT POLITICAL BUT SIMPLY TO ARRIVE AT AGREED APPROACHES TO SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND THAT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN SUCH CONGRESSES WAS NOT A QUESTION. (ON THE PREVIOUS DAY, NESTERENKO HAD MADE A MAJOR STATEMENT IN THE ECOSOC PLENARY PUSHING HIS IDEA.) SMIRNOV COMMENTED THAT THE ONLY REASON HE COULD SEE FOR U.S. OPPOSITION WAS THAT IT WAS A SOVIET PROPOSAL. MINISTER KITCHEN NOTED THE WIDER ISSUE OF PARTICIPATION/COMPETENCE AND SUGGESTED THAT THE ISSUE BE DEFERRED FOR LATER DISCUSSION. AMB. YOUNG AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION.

4. UN RESTRUCTURING: AMB. WELLS COMMENTED THAT  
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SOME OF THE SOVIET CONCERNS ABOUT THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SYSTEM MIGHT BE MET THROUGH THE CURRENT EXERCISE ON RESTRUCTURING AND NOTED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE USG ATTACHES TO THESE EFFORTS. MINISTER KITCHEN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETINGS AND OUR HOPES THAT A MEANINGFUL PACKAGE MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING. WITH REGARD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, HE POINTED OUT THE DANGER THAT THE G-77 WOULD TAKE AN UNACCEPTABLE POLITICAL DECISION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE FAIL TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT. NESTERENKO EXPRESSED HIS DOUBTS THAT THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE WOULD MAKE MUCH MEANINGFUL PROGRESS, POINTED TO THE OVEREMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE UN SYSTEM, BUT AGREED TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. SMIRNOV COMMENTED THAT WE SHOULD NOT OVERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK SINCE THE G-77 WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REOPEN THE MAJOR ISSUES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

5. GENERAL: IN CLOSING THE DISCUSSION, NESTERENKO

COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS PERHAPS NOT THE BEST TIME TO  
TRY TO FIND A COMMON GROUND BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.  
NEVEERTHELESS, HE WAS UNDER EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS TO  
ATTEMPT TO DO SO AND WAS PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN FUTURE  
DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SORT IN AN EFFORT TO DO SO. HE  
NOTED THAT WE MAY NOT SUCCEED IN FINDING A COMMON BASIS  
-- ON SOME ISSUES WE MAY HAVE FUNDAMANTAL DISAGREEMENTS --  
BUT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE TO TRY TO DO  
SO. AMB. YOUNG EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE  
FRANK DISCUSSIONS WE HAD HAD, AGREED WITH THE NEED TO  
CONTINUE SUCH CONSULTATIONS AND WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF  
ATTEMPTING TO REACH A COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON MAJOR  
ISSUES.

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## Message Attributes

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